various categories of the population and for various sectors of economic development. Govt. is of the view that nuclear energy can play an important role in this regard. While pursuing this objective Govt. will also see to it that all that is necessary is done to ensure safety and avoidance of hazards that have been cause of public concern.

Nuclear power has been cost effective in this country, in fact, the commercial rate of selling nuclear electricity various from about 46 p|KWh to 59 p|KWh. These are calculated on the basis of investments made and their normal rate of return.

Violation of German Laws in HDW Submarine deal

1553. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 15th June, 1990 that the Chairman of the German Parliamentary Submarine Inquiry Committee, Mr. Friendrich Bohl had said that no indication was there regarding violation of German Laws in regard to HDW Submarine deal with India;

(b) whether it was also mentioned that if there was any indication of the commission having been paid to the agents, it was up to the public prosecutor to investigate into it; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Efforts are being made through diplomatic channels to obtain a copy of the judgement delivered by the High Court in Kiel, which has been classified "Secret" by them. As regards the allegations of payment of commission by M|s HDW in respect of the Indian Navy's SSK Submarine contract, the matter is presently under investigation by the C.B.I. who have registered a Regular Case No. RC 1 (A)|90-ACu(I)| New Delhi on 5 March, 1990.

Sanction to Kaushabati Project in West Bengal

1554. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has given sanction to Kaushabati project in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Kaushabati project has not yet been referred to the Ministry for consideration.

Poverty line in India

1555. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of population below poverty line in India during the year 1985-86 to 1989-90;

(b) what is the line of demarcation of poverty in terms of per capita income;

(c) what is the trend of growth or decline of poverty in India from 1985 to 1990;

(d) what steps are taken to eradicate poverty;

(e) whether Government propose to introduce schemes to provide employment to all unemployed and under-employed; if so, what steps have been taken by Government so far; and

(f) what is the *per capita* income in rural areas at present and what is the *per capita* income in Urban areas in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) Percentage of population below the poverty line for the year 1987-88 for which estimates are available is 29.2.

(b) Poverty line is not defined in terms of per capita income. It is defined in terms of *per capita* expenditure. For the reference year 1987-88 the poverty line was Rs. 131.80 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 152.13 per capita per month for urban areas.

(c) The estimates of percentage of people below the poverty line are available for 1983-84 and 1987-88. This percentage has declined from 37.4 in 1983-84 to 29.2 in 1987-88.

(d) The programmes of poverty alleviation taken up are, special employment programmes (both self employment and wage employment) as well as Special Programmes for the improvement of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These Programmes provide income generating assets to the poor and also ensure wage employment. During the current year and Employment Guarantee Scheme has been introduced for the drought prone areas and areas with an acute problem of rural unemployment.

(e) The Approach to the Eighth Five Year Plan places employment generation as the major thrust for ensuring more balanced and equitable development. It envisages a full employment stratagy which would be operationalised by ensuring that growth is widely distributed across regions and sections of the population and is of a kind and magnitude which can absorb the increase in the labour force and the backlog of unemployment. The pattern of investment will be oriented in favour of employment intensive sectors as a part of this strategy. Special programmes to provide employment on a guaranteed basis are also visualised.

(f) The per capita net domestic product for the year 1980-81, the latest year for which estimates are available, was Rs. 1242 for rural areas and Rs. 2887 for urban areas. These estimates were at current prices. Such estimates are prepared only for census years.

Setting up of funds for indigenisation of Defence production

1556. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up Rs. 1 crore development fund for indigenisation of defence production in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any committee has been set up to grant and sanction purchase of defence items and utilise this fund; and

(d) if so, what is the extent to which this will be helpful for indigenisation of defence production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal is under consideration for development of vital parts required for initial maintenace of newly imported equipment.

(b) Does not arise as it is yet to be sanctioned.

(c) The fund will be planned by DGQA based on the merit of each case.

(d) This fund will assist in taking advance action for undertaking development of vital parts required for maintenance of new imported equipment to cover the gap of 2 to 3 years. The aim is to reduce the delays and speed up indigenisation thereby saving precious foreign exchange and cater for urgency of Defence operational needs.